

00-10-12

Mary Nichols, Chairman

Air Resources Board

1001 I Street, P.O. Box 2815

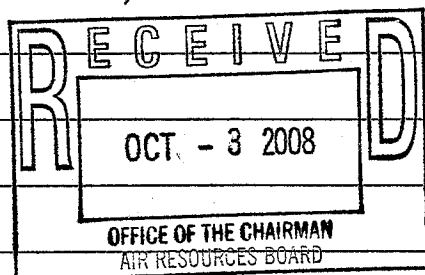
Sacramento, CA 95812

Dear Ms. Nichols,

There are more cows than people in Tulare County. Dairy manure lagoons contaminate groundwater with bovine pharmaceuticals, pathogens, fecal coliform bacteria, nitrates and increased salinity. Open manure lagoons emit ammonia, greenhouse gases, and abominable odors into our air.

Why can't Tulare County protect our groundwater quality and air quality by requiring dairies and feedlots to process manure into fertilizer?

North Carolina, which has more hogs than people, has mandated a clean technology to turn waste into fertilizer and has banned open lagoons permanently. The new waste treatment system cuts ammonia by 80% and virtually eliminates odor and pathogens. Reusing waste creates a closed loop system of agriculture, where even waste is not waste.



Respectfully yours,

Carole A. Clum

cc Seyed Sadredin, Executive Director, SJVAPCB

## Cleaner hog farms in North Carolina could be a national model

With an astonishing ten million pigs in North Carolina's hog industry, animal waste stored in open lagoons is a major environmental and health threat.

Now a program Environmental Defense Fund worked to enact last summer is poised to begin the installation of cleaner technologies, bringing relief to hog farmers, their long-suffering neighbors and the environment.

This June, under its new Lagoon Conversion Program, the state awarded grants of up to \$500,000 each to two hog farms and a nearby plant that will use new technology to turn the waste from 60,000 hogs into fertilizer.

"This is a great beginning for the state's push to convert all open-air lagoons to modern systems," said our scientist Dr. Joseph Rudek.

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### New technology will turn waste into fertilizer

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In recent years Rudek and his colleagues in our Raleigh office helped document air and water pollution from the open lagoons and shaped legislation that permanently banned new lagoons. Rudek

also served on the committee that evaluated alternatives and chose the new waste treatment system, which cuts ammonia 80% and virtually eliminates pathogens and odor.

Along with Frontline Farmers, a coalition from the hog industry, we are working to make conversion to the new systems economically feasible. "Once we get these systems working on the ground, we can develop a market and bring down installation and operating costs," Rudek said.



Joel Sartore/NGS